

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/042,481

Examiner

Jean Janvier

Applicant(s)

BANERJEE ET AL.

Art Unit

3622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 08/06/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6, 9-16 and 19-21.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Jean Janvier
Examiner
Art Unit: 3622

Detailed Action

Specification

Status Of The Claims

Claims 1-6, 9-10, 11-16, 19, 20 and 21 are currently pending in the Instant Application, while claims 7, 8, 17, 18 and 22-25 have been canceled.

Allowable claims

Independent claims 1, 11 and 21 are allowable and any associated dependent claims are also allowable. Hence, claims 1-6, 9-10, 11-16, 19, 20 and 21 are said to be allowable or patentable over the prior art of record.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patent 4,674,041 to Lemon discloses a system with remotely located coupon printing stations capable of limiting the number of coupons printed in a given time period. Each coupon station has a display for indicating the available coupons, selection means to allow the consumer to choose the desired coupon and a coupon printer for printing the selected coupon. The system disables display of a particular coupon when a pre-selected coupon limit has been reached. Indeed, the system enables a manufacturer to control its liability for coupons and to deter fraudulent redemption. Here, the manufacturer may prescribe (limit) a particular number of coupons to be redeemed collectively, i.e. throughout all retail stores, and/or at each particular retail store. The present system also greatly reduces the possibility of fraud by enabling coupons to be encoded with store identification numbers, expiration dates, uniform product codes, and

Art Unit: 3622

other information at the point of distribution or at a retail store or at the time of printing (printing information on a customer's printed coupon).

The present apparatus comprises, among other things, a stand-alone coupon dispensing terminal T (kiosk) is provided at each retail store or retail location. Each stand-alone terminal communicates with a host central processing unit (remote location) located remote from the stores. Coupons are displayed for customer selection at each dispensing terminal on a video menu via a cathode ray tube and touch screen combination in a fashion that enhances customer acceptance by reducing the time necessary to select and obtain coupons (retrieving and displaying coupons available to the customer upon receiving by the remote database from terminal T as entered by the customer via an input device the customer account). Each terminal may be monitored and controlled via the host computer or remote database to obtain data such as the number of coupons issued and the identification of customers using the terminal. **The system enables the manufacturer to limit, using the redemption data collected from participating retailers' POSes, the number of a particular coupon issued from a particular Terminal T related to a retailer's location or throughout the entire system.**

USP 4,896,791 to Smith discloses a coupon dispensing system, which displays a number of images, each image representing a product to be promoted and including a product selection area to be manipulated by a consumer to select that product. A switch is associated with each selection area to register the selection. The system receives an access code unique to the consumer, records product selections made by the consumer, compares the product selected by the consumer with a pre-selected quota and issues a coupon for the product selected by the

consumer if the quota for that consumer is not exceeded.

USP 6,055,519 to Kennedy discloses a method of and a system for negotiating and tracking the sale of goods. To negotiate and track the sale of goods, a negotiation engine (16) of fig. 1 operates to store data representing a current state (18) of a negotiation between a seller and buyer. The negotiation engine (16) stores the data within a framework for representing aspects of the negotiation between the seller and buyer. The framework (agreement or contract) includes a request object, a promise object and an acceptance object that can store a current description of a contract (order). **The framework also includes a set of one or more delivery deals determined by the contract. Each delivery deal can have a delivery request object, a delivery promise object, and a delivery acceptance object that can store associated item deals and time periods for delivery of item deals (negotiating a delivery period for the delivery of an order).** Each item deal can have an item request object, an item promise object and an item acceptance object that can store individual sales-order line-items. The negotiation engine (16) thereby allows a user to monitor the current state of the negotiation over a range of prices, **a range (set) of delivery dates**, ranges of quantities of a set of goods, and a range of configurations of the goods in the set (See abstract).

US Patent 5,988,346A to Tedesco et al. discloses a method and apparatus for predicting the inventory needed for a vending machine.

US Patent 5,128,861A to Kagami et al. discloses an inventory control system.

US Patent 5,963,919A discloses an inventory management strategy evaluation system.

Art Unit: 3622

Nina Shapiro, in a "Journal of economic Issues v.34n4 pp: 990-991", states that discount and sales advertise products and sales promotions may entail price changes.

Any inquiry concerning this communication from the Examiner should be directed to Jean D. Janvier, whose telephone number is (571) 272-6719. The aforementioned can normally be reached Monday-Thursday from 10:00AM to 6:00 PM EST. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Mr. Eric W. Stamber, can be reached at (571) 272- 6724.

Non-Official- 571-273-6719.

Official Draft : 571-273-8300

JDJ

09/16/07

JEAN D. JANVIER
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean D. Janvier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "J" at the beginning and a stylized "D" in the middle.